

THE CARRIER

MDARC

Volume XLVIII Number 2

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February 2000

February Meeting Friday February 18 7:30 PM

Program

Bill Kinsey, KF6HAY Speaking on
The US Coast Guard Auxiliary
communications program.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette CA

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... and Net-Control Was on Coit Tower !

by Pete Harris, KE6ZIW

Imagine one of the most spectacular settings in the world for a ham radio public service event, and the absolute dream position for the radio team's net-control. How about the San Francisco Waterfront and Bay, Alcatraz, the Fireboat station at the foot of the Bay Bridge, the Ferry Building, the Embarcadero, Aquatic Park. . . . and for net-control. . . the base of Coit Tower on top of Telegraph Hill. This was the beautiful setting of the 1999 *San Francisco Alcatraz Challenge Biathlon*.

On Saturday, July 10, 1999, members of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club joined with Amateur Radio operators from Half Moon Bay in providing radio communications for this yearly swim and run. 150 athletes jumped into the cold waters of San Francisco Bay off a Red & White Ferry next to Alcatraz Island, swam 2.4 miles to the Fireboat station at the foot of the Bay Bridge, then proceeded to run 10 kilometers down the San Francisco waterfront to Aquatic Park. Hams were stationed on the Red & White Ferry, on kayaks that were interspersed among the swimmers, on the lead powerboat, on the powered Zodiac raft at the rear of the swimmers, on the barge that was the swim's finish line, at the Fireboat station, on shore shadowing the event's coordinator, on a bike that followed the runners, at the run's finish line in Aquatic Park, and of course . . . on top of Telegraph Hill at Coit Tower.

The event officially began when the ham on the Red & White's top deck, standing next to the captain, received the radioed start command relayed through net control from the ham standing

next to the event coordinator on shore. The start command was given to the captain, who immediately blew the loud ferryboat horn, signaling 150 swimmers to jump off the ferry into the Bay. That began an almost constant flow of radio communications between members of the ham radio team regarding the status of the swimmers and the positioning of the various vessels that were keeping track of the swimmers to ensure their safety.

This event was conducted as a closed net, with almost all communication being relayed through net-control. This was necessary due to the large number of hams sharing the frequency, because of geographic and structural obstacles, and because of the distances between radio operators and their reliance on lower power hand-held radios. All stations had line-of-sight contact with Telegraph Hill (and what a sight it was), but many could not communicate directly with each other. Signals from "The Hill" boomed down to all of us. At the direction of net-control, there was at times some station-to-station communication between vessels in the water. A simplex two meter frequency was being used because there was no repeater that was within constant range of all the team members.

Every once in a while there was a break in the radio action and hams on the Bay could enjoy the incredible scenic backdrop to this event. There, from an angle that most of us rarely get to see - water level on the Bay - rose the world famous San Francisco skyline, with its well known buildings, hills and other landmarks. As the swimmers splashed in the water and gulped for air, the Pyramid Building, the Ferry Building, the seven famous hills, the Bay Bridge, Pier 39 and Fisherman's Wharf, looked larger than life against the dark blue sky dotted with patches of fog.

Two of the swimmers needed to be pulled out of the water early into the event when they became too cold and exhausted. This process was coordinated from shore through radioed messages

relayed via net-control to hams that were on the various boats. Several other swimmers lagged behind the main group and appeared to be struggling long after the front runners had reached shore. Event volunteers and hams in boats stayed close by in case they got into immediate trouble, gave them encouragement, and let them know how much further they had to go. This was being communicated to the event coordinator. These swimmers were all able to reach the finish line.

When the event was over by around noon, medals were given out in various categories (including fastest times for naked swimmers). There was food and refreshments and great "Alcatraz Challenge" t-shirts for all participants. We were on an emotional high discussing the day's events.

Participating in radio communications for public service events is a thrilling experience for many different reasons. The magic of radio transmissions, the camaraderie of being on a radio team, the chance to do something meaningful for a good cause, the fun and satisfaction of using your radio equipment and opportunity to learn its various capabilities in real-life situations, the beautiful places and settings that you get to enjoy - these are some of the reasons why it's easy as an amateur radio operator to get hooked on taking part in public service events. Watch the Carrier for future events. I am the Public Services Coordinator this year. Give me a call or email to find out about events that are coming up (925-228-4503). Let me know about any individual events you want to coordinate. George Rouse (WB6OFH) or I will be at the monthly MDARC meetings at the table by the door with event descriptions and sign-up sheets. Sign up! You'll have a great time and be giving something valuable back to your community.

'73's

Pete Harris, KE6ZIW

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MDARC Board of Directors Minutes, Jan. 3, 2000

The meeting was called to order by President Greg Estep, KE6VTA, at 7:30 p.m. at Emil Villa's Restaurant, Concord. Other officers and directors present: Vice-President Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, Sect'y Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Treasurer Marie Lewis, KF6GLV, Directors Mike Patterson, KE6JGA, and Tracey Schwartz, KE6TOT. Committee Chairmen present: RRRG—Jim Brunk, N6BHX; Social—George Roush, WB6OFH. Others present: RRRG—Jay Caldis, KT6Y; Dick Schulze, AA6DL; Tim Barrett, K6BIV; John Stuart, KM6QX. Pacificon—Dick Brown, KT6X.

Marie, KF6GLV, reviewed next year's budget during a 90 min. discussion. The Board agreed that the budget would be presented at the next general club meeting.

Announcements were: John Ronan, K3ZJJ, has agreed to manage the VE testing process; the next general program will be a panel on license restructuring; a ULS number needs to be obtained for the club licenses; the club web site needs updating; the next Board meeting will be Feb. 7.

Greg adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Secretary

PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES Horsemen's Traillides

Joe Gregory WA6DQ

The MDARC has been requested to provide radio communications for the following trailrides by several horsemen's associations.

Saturday, April 8, 2000. International Arabian Horse Association, Sunol Regional Park off

Calaveras Road, Alameda Co. 6 to 8 operators. Operators with 4WD vehicles will be permitted on restricted roads

Saturday, May 6, 2000. Concord - Mt. Diablo Trailride Association. From Clubhouse above Russellmann Park, Clayton, on Mt. Diablo. 8 to 10 operators needed. Hams with 4WD vehicles will be welcome to help provide transportation for the ride officials with whom they are working.

Saturday, May 13, 2000. International Arabian Horse Association. Sunol Regional Park to Mt. Rose. 8 operators. 4WD vehicles again invited.

Saturday, June 24, 2000. Moraga Horserman's Association ride, Oakland Hills (Redwood and Anthony Chabot Regional Parks). 6 Operators. On public paved roads.

Saturday, September 9, 2000. Las Trampas Trailride. In Redwood and Anthony Chabot regional parks, Oakland hills 6 to 8 operators. Paved Roads.

Saturday, October 28, 2000. Mt. Diablo Endurance Trailride On Mt. Diablo from Tassajero. 5 or 6 operators.

Thanks and 73, Joe

Hello from Bob

Just thought I'd drop a line since I am an absentee from the 7.06 repeater and say HI to all my friends on the repeater. For those that are HF capable, until 04/15 when the new rules comes into effect, I will be on 14.300 daily and can be reached there.

Bob Dart N6VOL
N6VOL@aol.com

Magic of W6CX Awards Continued

By Greg Estep, KE6VTA

Last month I gave you the list of awards that were given out at the Holiday Party.

Here are the additional awards that were awarded. Even though we have singled out these individuals for W6CX

awards, I would like to thank everyone for their help. It takes more than a village to keep this club running smoothly.

We only get a chance to give awards once a year to a few individuals. Without everyone pulling together, we would not have the reputation that we have worked very hard for.

W6CX Awards

Jeff Hart
KF6EUM

Aaron Matzkin
KE6ZZS

Jerry Gardner
W6UV

Mac McIntyre
KE6ZZG

W6CX Lifetime Achievement

Joe Gregory
WA6DQN

KILROY KEY

Terry Matzkin
KE6WRE

Shirley McKenzie
KE6SQV

See everyone on February 18 at the meeting.

73, Greg

Reno Millennium 2000 Ham Swap

Brought to you by the WTR Radio Pack and the Reno Area Metro Simplex amateur radio clubs.

The Reno Millennium 2000 Ham Swap and Sale is being planed for Saturday, February 12th, 2000 at KNPB Channel 5 in Reno starting at 8:00 am. KNPB is located at 1670 N Virginia St. From Interstate 80, take the Virginia St exit and head North a little less than a mile on the right side of the street

Make plans now to clean out your garage and shack of all the equipment and things you are not using. There is ample parking at KNPB and vender sites are free but please bring your own tables.

There will also be a raffle in the morning hours with tickets costing only \$1.00 Pre-sales of tickets are available by contacting Glen Haggard, KK7IH at kk7ih@arri.net or 775-673-6401.

Coffee and doughnuts will be available at the swap. Call in frequencies will be 145.290- pl 123.0, 147.060+ pl 123.0 and 444.800+ pl 123.0. For more information or reservations please contact Gary Grant, K7VY at k7vy@arri.net or 775-851-3716.

This is an indoor swap so we will be out of the weather.

The February Speaker

The February speaker is Bill Kinsey, KF6HAY, talking on US Coast Guard Auxiliary communications program. How HAMS can get involved in search and rescue, safety patrols on local waters, and serving on vessels as communications personnel. He is active in this and is very enthusiastic about sharing the joy of helping and operating with the Coast Guard Aux.

Terry, KE6WRE

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February 19, 2000

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4260 Gigling Road Seaside, California

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Guest Speakers...check website

Local Meteorologist

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Monterey County Mobile Emergency Communications
unit (MECU)

Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle(ERV)

Salvation Army Disaster Services Mobile Kitchen

A local Fire Rescue Vehicle

<http://www.k6ly.org/radiofest/>

Will Costello (831) 375-8133 wc6dx@arrl.net

Andy Palmer (831) 899-4905 ajp380@aol.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

02/07/2000 7:30PM	MDARC Board Meeting	Emil Villas in Concord
02/18/2000 7:30PM	MDARC General Meeting	
02/19/2000 8:00 AM	PACIFICON General Meeting	Emil Villas in Concord
03/06/2000 7:30PM	MDARC Board Meeting	Emil Villas in Concord
03/17/2000 7:30PM	MDARC General Meeting	
03/18/2000 8:00 AM	PACIFICON General Meeting	Emil Villas in Concord

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
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